

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method for inserting a caller's speech annotations into an original message, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a speech rendering of said original message;
 - annotating said speech message with at least one speech annotation; and
 - inserting said speech annotation into said original message.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said original message is a text email message and the step of providing said speech rendering of the text email message comprises:
 - accessing a Unified Messaging server and
 - retrieving said text email message.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said original message contains at least one attached document.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said original message is a voice message and the step of providing said voice message comprises:
 - accessing a Unified Messaging server and
 - retrieving said voice message.
5. (original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said step of providing a speech rendering of said original message comprises converting said text message to speech.
6. (original) The method according to claim 3 wherein said step of providing a speech rendering of said original message comprises converting said attachment to speech.

7. (original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of connecting to the mailbox of said email message by establishing a voice connection using a landline telephone or a mobile telephone.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said annotating step includes recognition of predefined commands for starting and stopping said speech annotation.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said commands are speech commands.

10. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said commands are entered via Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) tones.

11. (original) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of using an interactive voice response (IVR).

12. (original) The method according to claim 8 wherein said speech commands are user defined.

13. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of recognizing said speech annotations of said caller.

14. (original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of converting said speech annotations to text.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein said step of converting speech annotations ~~annotated voice command~~ to text is accomplished using Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) and Speech-to-Text conversion.

16. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said speech annotation is inserted in said original message in text format.

17. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said speech annotation is inserted in said original message as a sound file.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing said annotated message at a Unified Messaging server after inserting said speech annotation into said message.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18 wherein said step of storing said annotated message includes creating a new copy of said message, said new copy including said original message and inserted annotations.

20. (original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of forwarding said annotated message to another user.

21. (original) An apparatus for inserting a caller's speech annotations into an original message, comprising:

- means for providing speech rendering of said original message;
- means for annotating said speech message with at least one speech annotation; and
- means for inserting said speech annotation into said original message.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said original message is a text email message and the means for providing said speech rendering of the text email message comprises a Unified Messaging server.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said original message contains at least one attached document.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said original message is a voice message and the means for providing said text email message comprises a Unified Messaging server.

25. (original) The apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said means of providing a speech rendering of said original message comprises means for converting said text message to speech.

26. (original) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said means of providing a speech rendering of said original message comprises means for converting said attachment to speech.

27. (original) The apparatus according to claim 21 further comprising means for connecting to the mailbox of said email message by establishing a voice connection using a landline telephone or a mobile telephone.

28. (original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said annotating means includes means for recognition of commands for starting and stopping said speech annotation.

29. (original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said commands are speech commands.

30. (original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said commands are entered via Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) tones.

31. (original) The apparatus of claim 28 further incorporating the interactive voice response (IVR).

32. (original) The apparatus according to claim 28 wherein said speech commands are user defined.

33. (original) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising means for recognizing said speech annotations of said caller.

34. (original) The apparatus according to claim 21 further comprising means for converting said speech annotations to text.

35. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means of converting speech annotations ~~annotated voice command~~ to text is accomplished using Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) and Speech-to-Text conversion.

36. (original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said speech annotation is inserted in said original message in text format.

37. (original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said speech annotation is inserted in said original message as a sound file.

38. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising means for storing said annotated message at a Unified Messaging server after inserting said speech annotation into said message.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 38 wherein said means of storing said annotated message includes means for creating a new copy of said message, said new copy including said original message and inserted annotations.

40. (original) The apparatus according to claim 21 further comprising the means for forwarding said annotated message to another user.

41. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18 wherein said step of storing said annotated message comprises:

 querying whether to store said annotated message as a new copy or over said original message; and

 storing said stored message responsive to a response to the query.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 38 wherein said means of storing said annotated message comprises:

 means for querying whether to store said annotated message as a new copy or over said original message; and

 means for storing said stored message responsive to a response to the query.